

A true and particular ACCOUNT of the BATTLE near Hulst.

Sir,

UPON the 19th in the Evening I joined the Regiment off *Flushing*, along with Captain *Scot*, Ensign *James Campbell*, and all the Draughts, where I learned that Sir *Charles Erskine* had wrote you and Mr. *St. Clare*, to Mr. *Wilson*, of the Service we were going upon; which accordingly was executed, by sailing up the *Hond* or Western *Schelde* the 22d about Four in the Morning, and landed at *Stoppel-Dyke*, in the Island of *Hulst* opposite to *Saemslech* in the Country of *Axel*.

As you know that many of the strong Places in this Part of *Flanders* were either in the Hands of the *French*, invested or besieged by an Army of 25 or 3000 Men, under the Command of Count *Lowendhal*, you'll not be surpris'd to hear that your first Batallion has almost intirely ended the Campaign on their Part with a considerable Loss, but with as much Reputation, (I'll venture to say) as in any Campaign they served this Century. They have answered well the Pains you have taken to form and discipline them, and have acted to your best Hopes and Expectations: But it is better for me to leave this to be told by others; and therefore shall confine myself to Particulars, some of which are very disagreeable.

Soon after we landed the 22d, a Camp was marked out for the three Regiments under General *Fuller's* Command, extending from near the Place of landing towards *Hulst*, along the River that divides that Country from *Axel*, in order to prevent the *French* from making an Irruption on that Side, which Lieutenant General *LaRoque*, Governor of that Country, apprehended from the Difficulties the Enemy met with in making their Approaches by the Dyke upon which the Fort of *St. Bergue* is situated.

The Enemy, some Days before, having surpris'd the Fort *Outker*, and one or two small Redoubts in the Way to *St. Bergue*, resolv'd, it seems, to make their Push that Way: For, after battering and bombarding that Fort for several Days, they attempted to take it by an Assault on the 22d at Night. Upon which our Brigade was sent for to sustain four *Dutch* Batallions, and one of *Sax-Gotha* who repuls'd the *French* after a warm Attack of three Hours, from Nine to Twelve; and as we had nine Miles to march, we did not get within two Miles of it before Five next Morning, when we were ordered to halt by General *LaRoque*, and some Time after Orders came for our Batallion to proceed to the *Dutch* Camp near *St. Bergue*, and for the other two to return to their old Ground.

Matters remained very quiet all that Day and Night, except some cannonading and bombarding, in which we were very unequally matched, the *French* having none under 24 to 48, and we none exceeding six Pounders.

The *French* having carried their Approaches, by Sap, almost under the Palisadoes, many of which were beat down by their Cannon and Bombs, they began an Assault with great Resolution upon *Friday* the 24th, about Nine in the Evening; and having gained a little Ground upon the Outguards and Piquets, the Regiments encamped marched immediately to sustain them. By the Situation of the Encampment, the *Dutch* Regiment of *Pirie*, (who had behaved well on the Attack two Days before) marched first up, and did well upon this, but within half an Hour were sick of it; upon which the *Royal* advanced, and regained what little Ground was lost; repuls'd the *French* upon every Attack, and did not suffer themselves to be relieved till all their Ammunition was spent: To supply which many of them retired and borrowed Cartridges

bridges from the *Dutch*, and returned again to the Attack. You must believe, Sir, that, in an Affair of this Nature, many of your Officers and Soldiers are killed and wounded.

Sir *Charles Erskine* fell early, Lieutenant *Forbes* and Ensign *Patrick Campbell* both mortally wounded.

I was shot through the right Leg a little above the Ankle, and, luckily for me, while it was dressing, the Ball dropt out of the Wound, being in a direct Line.

Captain *Scot* is shot through the left Shoulder, as is also Ensign *St. Clare*, both their Balls yet lodged: Your two Lieutenants of Grenadiers, *Grant* and *Gordon*, are shot through the Leg, and Lieutenant *Rutherford* slightly wounded in the Arm. All this happened before One o' Clock in the Morning: But I heard, after the Firing had ceased, that the Enemy gained very little Ground, and that there were no more Officers wounded.

As to the Loss of private Men killed or wounded, it is impossible, at that Time of Night and Morning, to speak with any Certainty; only, when I was carried off to my Quarters, I found there about 100 Men drest, or waiting to be drest; and I am afraid as many more were left on the Spot; of whom (which is very surprising) I don't believe there was one killed or wounded by our own Fire, having an Opportunity to observe exactly all our Manouvre. As the Ground would only admit of a Platoon to come up at one Time, we did not, for that Reason, turn it into a Street Fire; but the first Platoon that advanced gave their twenty four Rounds, which they all performed in this Manner, with scarce any Confusion or Disorder, which is very much to the Honour of the Officers and Men, whose Behaviour would have given you intire Satisfaction.

The other two Regiments of our Brigade could have no Share in this, from the Distance of their Camp and Posts they occupied along the *Digue* opposite to the Land of *Axel*, where, by the By, they were of as much real Service, at that Time, as if they had taken Post at *Lambeth*, for the *French*, at that Time, were besieging *Phillipine*, and not a *Frenchman* in the Country of *Axel*, which was then defended by two *Dutch* Battalions, and some Squadrons, who, I fear, will, in a few Days, be Prisoners of War, as well as the *Hugobanders* and *Brugg's*; for I am apprehensive that *Monsieur LaRoque* will find it difficult to defend his Post; and if your Regiment had not been there that Night, I can say, with great Truth, that they had been Masters of the Pass and Fort in two Hours Time, and consequently of all that Country.

I was carried in a Waggon to *Stoppel-Dyke*; from thence I came hither in a Bylander, along with about 60 wounded Officers and Soldiers. I have sent another Bylander to *Stoppel-Dyke*, for such wounded as might afterwards come thither. I am,

SIR, &c.

From on Board a Bylander
in *Campvere-Harbour*, 26th

April 1747

Since writing the above, the *Confrater*, *Terwest*, is just come from *Middleburgh*, who

tells me, that the States of this Province have a later Account from General *LaRoque*,

acquainting him that the *French* had abandoned their Entrenchment on *St. Bergue*, and

that we had recaptured the *Castell*; but whatever is the Mr. *Stewart* will send to the

Secretary's Office in Account of.

I am,

SIR, &c.

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